

Message Text

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47

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 L-03 EB-11 SCI-06

EPA-04 CEQ-02 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /087 W

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R 271221Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5714

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IE FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN SPOKANE EXPOSITION

DEPARTMENT: PLEASE REPEAT AS DEEMED ADVISABLE

1. ECON/COM MIN CALLED ON BRUNET

DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MFA, DECEMBER 26 TO INQUIRE ABOUT STATUS OF FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN SPOKANE EXPOSITION. HE TOLD BRUNET HE HAD HEARD A DISTURBING RUMOR THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT FRANCE WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE AFTER ALL.

2. BRUNET REPLIED WITH CONSIDERABLE EMBARRASSMENT THAT HE WAS AFRAID THE RUMOR WAS TRUE. HE SAID PEOPLE IN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WITH MORE INFLUENCE THAN HIMSELF HAD GONE TO PRESIDENT POMPIDOU AND TOLD HIM THAT IT WOULD BE A WASTE OF MONEY FOR FRANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXPOSITION. ALTHOUGH A FINAL DECISION HAD NOT YET BEEN MADE HE SAID HE WAS VERY MUCH AFRAID IT WOULD BE NEGATIVE. HE SAID HE HAD ARGUED AT THE VERY LEAST THE GOF SHOULD GIVE US A PROMPT REPLY AND HE BELIEVED WE WOULD BE GETTING A FORMAL REPLY BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. BRUNET SAID HE WAS VERY DISTRESSED THAT MATTERS HAD TURNED OUT THIS WAY NOT MERELY OR EVEN PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THE EMBARRASSING POSITION IT HAD PUT HIM IN BUT,

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BECAUSE OF THE INEPT WAY IN WHICH THE GOF HAD HANDLED THE

RESPONSE TO SPOKANE'S INVITATION.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH IT WOULD SEEM FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS TO THE GOF WOULD BE FUTILE, WE WILL DEFER FINAL JDGMET ON THIS POINT UNTIL WE HAVE ACTUALLY RECEIVED THE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOF DECISION. WE REGRET THAT SPOKANE'S HOPES FOR FRENCH PARTICIPATION NOW SEEM LIKELY TO BE DASHED, BUT WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT A CLEAR CUT "NO" WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO THE TERGIVERSATIONS WHICH WE HAVE HAD TO PUT UP WITH FOR THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS.
STONE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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